Price Fixed for oil palm fresh fruit

785. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price fixed for oil palm fresh fruit bunch is remunerative;

(b) if so, the details thereof *vis-a-vis* the demands of farmers; and

(c) the reasons for cut in import duty on oil palm?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Oil Palm farmers have demanded a price of Rs. 3500 per MT of Oil Palm Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFBs) in Andhra Pradesh and Rs. 4000 per MT of FFBs in Karnataka. Cost of cultivation of Oil Palm fresh fruit bunches has been estimated at about Rs. 2750 to Rs. 3000 per MT. Taking into account steep decline in the price of crude palm oil, price of oil palm FFBs has been fixed at Rs. 2300 per MT by Government of Andhra Pradesh and Rs. 2750 per MT by Government of Karnataka. To ensure that oil palm farmers are paid reasonable price Government of India is implementing a Market Intervention Scheme in Andhra Pradesh to give support price of Rs. 2750 per MT of FFB to oil palm growers.

(c) There has been no reduction in the effective rate of 16.5% import duty on crude palm oil of edible grade. RBD palm oil of edible grade and its fractions continue to attract the peak rate of customs duty.

Atomic Power project at Rajasthan

786. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the 3rd unit of the Rajasthan Atomic Power Project at Rawatbhata has become critical; and

(b) if so, the details there of?